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Tenth Meeting of the
Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee for
the Integration of Women in Development

23 - 25 March, 1989
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

LC/NAIROBI

REPORT OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

A. PARTICIPATION AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

1. The tenth meeting of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating Committee (ARCC) for the Integration of Women in Development was held at the ECA Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 23 to 25 March, 1989.

2. Seven out of the 15 member States of ARCC were represented at the meeting: Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Rwanda, Zaire and Zimbabwe. Five member States of the ECA: Ethiopia, Niger, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania attended the meeting as observers. The meeting was also attended by the following organisations in the United Nations system and or specialised agencies as observes: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations attending as observers were: Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the health of women and children (IAC), and Women International Democratic Federation (WIDF).

Opening Ceremony (Agenda Item 1)

3. The opening ceremony was attended by Comrade Mengesha Haile, Department Head, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Some government officials of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia also attended the opening ceremony. The opening ceremony was presided over by the President of ARCC who also served as the Chairperson of the ARCC meeting.

4. In welcoming the members of ARCC and observers to the tenth meeting of ARCC, the representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia acknowledged the efforts made by ARCC in co-ordinating sub-regional programmes on women. He referred to the serious problems such as drought, illiteracy, lack of primary health-care and unemployment which are affecting a large portion of the African continent and further compounded by international inflation, recession and the unfavourable terms of world trade.

5. The Lagos Plan of Action that was designed to redress these problems he said, gave special attention to the emancipation of women. Continuing, he said that it was not possible to achieve stronger economies and accelerated growth without the full participation of women who constitute half of the population of Africa.

6. Continuing, he referred to the steps taken at the international level to forward the issue of women namely: the proclamation of the United Nations Decade for Women declared by the World Conference of the International Women's Year in 1975 and the Declaration on the participation of women in promoting peace and cooperation which was adopted by the General Assembly at its 37th Session. These declarations and the formulation of the Arusha and Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies, he said, have provided the framework for developing and promoting women in development programmes.

7. He stressed that strategies mooted for emancipating women should take into consideration the questions of the liberation of our societies as a whole from the dictates of backward cultures and traditional practices that deprive women from full political, social and economic participation.

8. In discussing the efforts made by the Government of Socialist Ethiopia with regard to women issues, he referred specifically to the creation of the revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association (REWA) in 1980 which has facilitated the contributions of women to the development of the country. He said that the objectives of the Association centres on creating the necessary conditions that enable women to exercise their rights. He further informed the meeting that the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs was responsible and mandated to "follow up women's affairs".

9. Finally, he pointed out that owing to the critical role of women, special attention should be given to the promotion of their equal participation. Though tremendous achievement have been attained, he said that countries were still far from making significant changes in the socio-economic conditions of women in Africa.

10. The Executive Secretary of ECA, Professor Adebayo Adedeji welcomed all participants to ECA to deliberate on the programme for women in Africa. In his statement, he said that the situation of African women at the end of the 80s has had both positive and negative developments. He recalled the wide range of activities that had been undertaken by the United Nations family, NGOs and by governments, for the advancement of women since the Arusha and Nairobi Conferences.

11. High-lighting some of the positive developments he pointed out that in the employment sector, there had been a tendency for women to move into the professional categories which were, until only recently occupied almost exclusively by men. Continuing, he said that at the decision-making level, some governments such as Senegal, Tanzania, Mauritania, Gabon and Uganda have established measures to increase the participation of women in key responsible positions both in the public and private sectors.

12. Despite these positive developments, he recognised that women have been adversely affected by the crisis still confronting African economies. On this issues, he particularly referred to the Africa's external debt and the debt servicing situation which were steadily worsening. He said that the total external debt of the region now stands at US$230 billion, with a debt service ratio of over 40%, on average. With regard to women, he said, the burden was increasing instead of decreasing, infant mortality was rising, more and more babies were being born underweight and women were working harder than ever before in order to keep life going. The full impact of the African economic and social crisis on women, he continued, had not, however, been fully revealed because of lack of empirical data and analysis.

13. Turning to the United Nations effort to give greater prominence to women issues, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the status of the women's programme in the Medium Term Plan, 1992 to 1997, had been elevated by making it stand on its own as Advancement of women, instead of as one element in Social Development. This move, he said, demonstrates the United Nations commitment to improving the status of women.

14. Touching on the forthcoming Fourth Regional Conference on the implementation of the Arusha Strategies, he informed the meeting that the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria had accepted to host the Conference. The Conference will be held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 18 to 22 September, 1989. On this issue, he reminded members of ARCC on their responsibility as planners of the Fourth Regional Conference. Continuing, he said that it was his hope that the women will utilize the Conference to develop programmes and activities that will genuinely empower women to play a major role in the development of the continent.

15. Finally, the Executive Secretary referred to the ARCC Tenth Anniversary which will be celebrated this year. While discussing the programme for celebration this landmark during the Fourth Regional Conference, he said that, it would be a unique opportunity for all members to publicise the work of the Committee. ARCC he said, was now an institution and hence there was need to ensure its permanency and its strengthening in the future. He proposed to ARCC members to consider a longer mandate for the Committee and if possible holding elections during the Regional Conferences.

16. Referring to the theme of the Conference of Ministers, "Search for an African Alternative to Structural Adjustment Programme", the Executive Secretary concluded his statement by calling on ARCC members participation in TEPCOW and the Conference of Ministers as well as their contribution to the discussion in these meetings.

17. Following the Executive Secretary's statement, the President of ARCC presented her report document E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.X/89/2, by welcoming the presence of the ECA Executive Secretary at the meeting and reminding those present of his key role in the establishment and continued survival of ARCC. The President emphasized the need to create ways of ensuring the longevity of the Committee, and its related organs as ARCC is the only regional governmental/ECA permanent body in the Africa region having decentralized structures and mandate to support and promote the socio-economic interests of African women.

18. The President reviewed some of the key recommendations and resolutions adopted at the last ARCC meeting in Niamey, Niger, last year. Governments and United Nations agencies were urged to take into account the guidelines of the Arusha and Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies in their development of projects for women. Increased assistance for national women's machineries in the form of data banks and documentation units was recommended. Governments were also urged to improve and disseminate technologies that improve the quality of life for rural women. ARCC also appealed to governments and financial institutions to take appropriate measures in the field of domestic trade and the informal sector, in regards to the up-grading of technical and managerial skills of business women and traders and improving the infra-structure for women in the informal sector, and establishment of effective women's traders associations as reflected in the 1990-91 ECA/ATRCW Work Programme.

19. The President stated that the past two resolutions adopted in Niamey show ARCC's concern for the termination of the women co-ordinators at the MULPOC level. She stated that during a meeting with the Director of the Regional Bureau of Africa at UNDP, some measures that could be taken to address the situation were discussed.

20. In conclusion, the President mentioned the ad-hoc Expert Group meeting organised by ATRCW on guidelines for the incorporation of women's concerns in development planning. She emphasized the importance of the upcoming Fourth Regional Conference on the implementation of the Arusha Strategies to be held in September, 18 - 22 in Nigeria. The President also saluted ARCC. She stated that there are plans to hold world conferences after 1990 in regards to WID and that ARCC will assist the Africa region to effectively participate in such conferences. She concluded by saying that ARCC will have to face many new challenges, if it is to continue to be of vital interest to African women.

B. AGENDA

Adoption of the Agenda (agenda item 2)

21. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening ceremony:

   a) Opening statement by the Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

   b) Statement by the Executive Secretary of ECA

   c) Report of the President of ARCC

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Report to ARCC on the activities of the ECA programme for the advancement of women and report by the MULPOC

4. Report to ARCC on the meeting of the United Nations Commission on the status of women, the Board of Directors of INSTRAW and the Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

5. Report on the Ad-hoc Expert Group meeting on Guidelines for the Incorporation of women's concerns in National Development Plan.

6. Consideration of the report to the ECA Conference of Ministers on changing socio-economic conditions of women in Africa in the context of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the advancement of women.

7. Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development

8. Any Other Business

9. Adoption of the report

22. Following the adoption of the agenda above, the meeting proceeded with its deliberation with Ghana (current ARCC President) as Chairperson and Rwanda as Rapporteur.

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Statement of the Executive Secretary of ECA (agenda item 1 (b)

Report of the President of ARCC (agenda item 1 (c)

23. In the discussion that followed, the Conference participants raised the issue that the sub-regional committees could not carry out their work due to financial constraints. It was proposed that the mandate of ARCC and the sub-regional committees be prolonged by two years, in order to allow time for the resolving of the financial problems faced by the committees.

24. The President of ARCC recommended that the above proposal be presented to the ECA Conference of Ministers in the form of a resolution. A request was made to the Deputy Executive Secretary for recommendations or possible solutions for resolving the financial crisis of the sub-regional committees.

25. The Deputy Executive Secretary replied that the question of Women's Programmes at the MULPOCs was of major concern to the ECA Secretariat, but unfortunately the Secretariat did not have the resources to finance them. UNDP had provided support for all activities and the results had not been very positive. With regard to ECA regular budget, the financial crisis did not make room for any hope. The Deputy Executive Secretary also indicated that member States could emulate the example of Egypt, which had seconded one coordinator to the Tangiers MULPOC at its own cost. Another solution would be to sensitize the member States of each sub-region to allocate a portion of their pledge on 8 April 1989 to the Women's Programmes at the MULPOCs.

26. He noted further that it was not enough to provide funds for the payment of salaries of coordinators, because just as the case of the MULPOCs, there would still be the question of funds for trips and missions. The Deputy Executive Secretary conceded that there was a genuine problem and that when he attended the meeting of the Council of Plenipotentiaries of the Tangier MULPOC, an appeal had been made to the ECA Secretariat to assist in funding missions and trips of the coordinator. He reiterated his appeal to member States to pledge their contributions during the meeting of 8 April 1989. He indicated that the problem facing the coordinator at Tangier was being studied and he hoped that a solution would be found.

27. A question was posed to the secretariat as to the possibility of international donors financially assisting the sub-regional committees. In response, the secretariat explained the past role of UNDP in this area, and said ATRCW will continue to attempt to secure funds from donors. A suggestion was also presented that sub-regional institutions like the Preferential Trade Areas (PTA), the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference (SADEC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes be approached for financial assistance. In conclusion, the President of ARCC stressed that the issue of financing is critical and that ARCC needs strong sub-regional structures that can undertake the responsibility of carrying out its work.

Report o ARCC on the Activities of the ECA programme for the advancement of women (agenda item 3)

28. Presenting the report on ECA activities on the integration of women in development, the Secretariat referred to the various legal instruments from which ECA derives its mandate for the planning and execution of the work-programme related to women issues at the regional, subregional and global levels. According to the report, the ECA work programme was pursued through ATRCW as well as other technical divisions of the ECA. During the period under review, (1988 - 1989), the focus was on improving women's role in food production particularly in agro-industries, improving women's role in the informal sector, developing their managerial and entrepreneurial capabilities and accessing them to credit.

29. ECA's programme for the integration of women in development within the period April 1988 to March 1989 focussed on: (i) promotional activities; (ii) institutional building within the UN system; and (iii) collaboration with other organisations interested in gender issues at subregional, regional and global levels.

30. The promotional activities in general covered training, research/studies, project implementation and information dissemination. Specifically, ECA/ATRCW carried out the following activities: A sub-regional seminar on improving women's Management skills was organised for French-speaking African countries and was held in Douala - Cameroun in December 1988, a regional seminar on the Role of Women in their contribution to Domestic and Intra-African Trade was organised by the International Trade and Finance Division of ECA in collaboration with ATRCW. The seminar was held in Niamey (Niger) in March 1988; Two evaluation missions were undertaken to Egypt and Botswana to examine the extent to which the Arusha and Nairobi Strategies are taken into account within national programmes and concerns of women in development, A workshop on project formulation for Portuguese-speaking African countries was organised and held in Sao Tome in May 1988.

31. An Expert Group Meeting on guidelines for the incorporation of women's issues and concerns in development planning/plans was held in Addis Ababa in November 1988. Two major projects were being implemented, they include: a SIDA-funded project on increasing women's access to credit which is being considered in depth on a pilot basis in Zambia, Rwanda and Ethiopia, and the UNDP-funded project on women in the informal sector. A third project being implemented is the Ford Foundation-funded project. It is a research project on women's role in agro-industries and the informal sector. Studies on women's role in agro-industries have been undertaken in Botswana, Lesotho, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, while the informal sector (under Ford Foundation-funded) has covered Kenya, Mauritius, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The outcome of these studies will be published before the end of the year (1989).

32. As regards institutional building, ECA has continued to ensure the incorporation of women's concerns within the MULPOC programmes despite the present financial crisis which gave cause to the phasing out of the co-ordinators positions. The Gisenyi MULPOC for instance carried a study on extension services in agriculture and women in 1988 through funds obtained from the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development and has also kept up with its publication of "women and development". The Lusaka MULPOC completed a study on the participation of rural women in socio-economic development. The Yaounde MULPOC collaborated with ATRCW

in organising the sub-regional workshop on increasing women's management skills which was held in Douala Cameroun in November/December 1988. Through the efforts of ECA, the government of Egypt made available a woman co-ordinator for the Tangier MULPOC.

33. In terms of collaboration, it was reported that during the period under review, ECA/ATRCW collaborated with OAU, INSTRAW and UNIFEM in a subregional project on women in the informal sector. The project which is now being implemented was discussed and approved during the UNDP inter-agency meeting held in Banjul, the Gambia in March 1988. Other forms of collaboration include ECA/ATRCW's participation and attendance to meetings and other inter-agency activities.

34. The future thrusts of the programme would include mainly the improvement/increase of women in scientific and technical fields and the establishment of a data bank on women.

35. During the discussion which followed, participants queried the silence on the outcome of consultations between the UNDP and ECA on the possibility of reviving UNDP support and assistance towards the revival of women's programme at MULPOC level. The meeting was informed that no concrete commitment had been made by UNDP and that ARCC will be informed on whatever future developments. It was also brought to the attention of the meeting that ECA participation to the seminar on Women and Development Strategies and Development Planning in African countries organised by UNIFEM in Lome on 3 - 8 October 1988 had been omitted in the report and ATRCW was requested to include it.

Report to ARCC on the Meetings of INSTRAW Board of Trustees and UNIFEM
(agenda item 4)

36. Under this agenda item the ECA Secretariat indicated that the report did not cover the meeting on the commission on the status of women as the meeting was taking place from 29 March to 7 April 1989. The report of this meeting will therefore be incorporated in the current report when it is ready.

37. The Secretariat presented then the document E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.X/89/4. In the presentation, it was stated that INSTRAW was established as a result of a recommendation advanced at the 1975 World Conference of the International Women's Year and that the recommendation was endorsed by General Assembly Resolution No. 3520 (.XXX).

38. After a review of the background and mandate of INSTRAW, the report was then presented in three parts. This included: consultative meeting between the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW, meeting of the Board of Trustees Ninth Session, and consultations with UNIFEM.

39. Highlighting on issues discussed during the consultative meeting between the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW which was held 16 - 17 February 1989 two days before the ARC meeting, the Secretariat said that areas considered for possible future collaboration with INSTRAW included: research, training, information, documentation and communication, monitoring and evaluation methodologies.

40. In the area of information, documentation, and communication, it was stated that the Regional Commissions and INSTRAW appreciated the mutual exchange of publications that was currently taking place. Regional Commissions agreed to assist INSTRAW in the dissemination of INSTRAW NEWS and other material within their respective regions.

41. Turning to the Ninth Session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW which was held at the Institute's headquarters in Santo Domingo - the Dominican Republic from 20 - 24 February 1989, the Secretariat highlighted the major areas of co-operation discussed in this meeting. These areas included: the preparation and implementation of the System - Wide Medium Term Plan on Women and Development and the co-ordination of their strategies within the System - Wide Medium Term Plan for the period 1990 - 1995. Other areas the session considered for future collaboration were: research, training, information, documentation, communication, monitoring and evaluation methodologies.

42. It was noted that INSTRAW had been active through its participation in many meetings and involvement in several activities and programmes like producing training modules and packages, improving women's water supply and sanitation and financing policies for improving women's access to credit facilities.

43. In concluding the presentation on this part of the document, it was noted that Data collection, statistics production, methodologies and evaluation of programmes are among the essential prerequisites for the needed improvement on women's issues. The need for exchange of information, materials and experiences was also recognised and stressed.

44. Finally, the consultative meeting between ECA and UNIFEM which was held on 27 - 28 February 1989 was elaborated upon. It was said that the meeting focussed on collaborative arrangements particularly with regard to the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development.

45. The meeting was informed that UNIFEM agreed to give ECA its support by financing studies for the conference. The studies agreed on included: strategies for improving women's access to education and training in science and technology, guidelines for incorporating women's concerns in development planning, and flow of resources to women's programmes in the context of the African Food and Debt Crisis. It was also noted that UNIFEM and INSTRAW have done a lot of studies on the issue of incorporating women's concerns in development planning. In this respect she said, ECA study in this field will draw experiences from UNIFEM and INSTRAW.

Discussion

46. In the discussion that followed, an observation was made that the report of ATRCW participation at the meeting of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW should have focussed more on ATRCW's involvement. Gaps were also found in the information provided during ATRCW consultations with UNIFEM. It was accepted that these gaps be filled through information to be provided by the observer from UNIFEM.

Report to the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee on the Expert Group Meeting on Guidelines for the incorporation of women's concerns in National Development Plans E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.X/89/5 (agenda item 5)

47. In presenting the report, the ECA Secretariat informed the meeting that among the many reasons for this guide was the need to take concrete steps in overcoming the continuous oversight of women's issues and concerns in the drawing up of National Development Plans. It was also stated that the proposed guide serves the following purposes: provides the various users the "how to" of incorporating women's issues and concerns in their activities, provides the basis for resource planning that would incorporate women and provides information base on which to plan for women's needs and concerns.

48. In reporting, the Secretariat highlighted the major contributions at the expert meeting which among others were (1) Paper presentation on: (a) National Development Plans in Africa; Planning for Economic and Social Development in which the presenter pointed out the following: types of planning, characteristic of planning, current trend of planning in Africa and the constraints to planning. (b) Women and Development Planning an issue paper. This paper as was reported focussed on African crisis and women, factors that have brought about the crisis and the overdependence of country for external resources for funding the development plans which makes these plans very independable and fragile.

49. (2) Experiences in Development Planning by experts: The experiences endorsed the need for gender issue as an appropriate dimension in development planning that takes into consideration women's issues and concerns.

50. (3) Proposed chapters for the guidelines: The expert group in elaborating on the guidelines made the following inputs as necessary pre-conditions for the guidelines to be useful:- awareness of the need for gender bias planning, the need for demonstrable commitment, the need to identify and recognise responsibility centres that must positively impact on the planning process and inputs. Stress was made on the need for the compilation, processing and proper analysis of data that can clarify women's roles and conditions. As further pre-requisite, it was recommended that appropriate structural arrangements be institutionalised through which women can be integrated into national development.

Discussion

51. In the discussions that followed, comments were made on the effort of the Secretariat which was considered excellent and commendable. Questions were raised as to how the expert group was constituted and the reasons for the limited spread of representations at meetings. It was also observed that the Secretariat in the carrying out of itstasks must try to obtain the opinions and inputs of grassroots women who also have meaningful and genuine inputs to make on issues

of women particularly issues relevant to national development planning. Participants stressed the need for the Secretariat to make an effective use of the experts who spread all over Africa. It was further observed that ATRCW collaborate as best as possible with other agencies like UNIFEM who are doing work in the same area. The UNIFEM observer expressed her willingness to take part in any form of collaboration especially in the pulling together of the proposed guidelines on/for the incorporation of women's concerns in National Development Plans. In addition, it was observed that from experiences "main streaming" as opposed to "women only" programmes has been a more acceptable approach to integrating women in National Development Plans.

52. In responding to the questions and observations raised, the Secretariat commented that the experts were selected on their own merits. That the limited spread of representation was due most times to the financial constraints within which the Secretariat operates which limits it from paying for participants participation. The Secretariat further pointed out that appeals have been made to governments for the inclusion of women in their delegation who can come few days earlier to participate in the ARCC meeting and then stay on for the other meetings and this is one way out in addressing the question of limited spread of representation. The representative on behalf of the Secretariat assured the meeting that it had taken note of their questions and observations.

Report on Chaning Socio-Economic Conditions of Women in Africa in the Context of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women E/ECA/ATRCW/ARCC.X/89/6 (Agenda Item 6)

53. In presenting this report, the Secretariat explained that this was a follow-up on the first report with the same title that was presented to the 1988 ECA Conference of Ministers in Niamey, Niger. The objective of this paper was to report on the various activities undertaken by member States, United Nations agencies and other organisations since the last meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers. In addition, activities that went unreported last year as well as other relevant issues such as the impact of the economic crisis on women are included.

54. Various activities undertaken by the United Nations agencies in efforts to further integrate women in development were described. Agencies such as ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and FAO were said to be giving support to income generating activities for rural women in Egypt. The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) had initiated a project promoting the involvement of women in new and renewable sources of energy. The activities of UNIFEM and UNICEF were also described among those of other United Nations agencies.

55. The activities of ATRCW, such as the expert group meeting on the guidelines for the incorporation of women's concerns in national development plans were also pointed out. A sub-regional seminar on measures to improve women's management skills in Douala, Cameroun, was also mentioned. In addition, studies undertaken in regards to the informal sector and agro-industries were among ATRCW activities undertaken during this period. . . .

56. The paper reported on the activities undertaken by member States as they continue to initiate programmes and projects as outlined in the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies. Various activities carried out in the agricultural, employment, education, training, law and legislation sectors by various countries were also presented.

57. The impact of the economic crisis and the effects of the structural adjustment on women was discussed during the presentation. It was noted that United Nations Office at Vienna, Center for the Advancement of Women, held an inter-regional seminar last year on this subject.

58. A sectoral analysis of women's roles in employment, education and training law and legislation was also provided in the report.

59. Problems and constraints faced by women in general were provided as well as recommendations for solutions. In conclusion, the paper stated that despite some social and economic changes in favour of women, the implementation of the strategies has been slow, due to a number of constraints. The need for governments to make greater commitments in order to effectively implement the Forward Looking Strategies to the year 2000 was emphasized.

Discussion

60. During the discussion period, comments were made and questions raised focusing on information, statistical data and methodology used in preparing the report.

61. The Secretariat explained that the report was based on information, studies, discussions, reviews and reports collected from member States, United Nations net work and machineries and also from other studies conducted by ECA. It was further stated that a questionnaire was sent to member States to monitor the various activities on women but the response from the States was noted to be very poor.

62. The delegate expressed disappointment at the way the Secretariat excluded them in the course of the study despite of the good understanding existing between their organisations and the ECA/ATRCW. They observed that the questionnaire did not reach sufficient number of member States to render the information there from reliable representative.

63. On closer examination of the statistic used, the delegates complained of the anomalies and partial nature of most of the figures used and the misinterpretation of the facts therefrom. Suggestion on alternative ways for realistic analysis and interpretation were made particularly in reference to determining the level of women's participation in decision making at various levels. They also called for correction of some of the figures shown in the tables. It was necessary that data source be well explained and analysed.

64. The role women themselves play while in certain recognised positions also come for scrutiny and women were called upon to make good use of any position they find themselves in availing themselves of all opportunities such positions offered, especially in helping the less priviledged ones. They were advised to try to promote and defend women's causes than to wait on men, government or others to do it for them.

65. Replying, the Secretariat addressed the issue of poor response from member States whenever there were call for information on women. The Secretariat appealed to the delegates to ensure that their respective countries respond to the questionnaire so as to feed the Secretariat with all the necessary information on women's issues available in the member States.

66. It was observed by a delegate that some countries were erroneously referred to as belonging to a different geographical region than their correct region. The observation was well taken and explained as resulting from differences in languages used (English and French) in listing the countries as well as the ECA location of the sub-regional structures - the MULPOCs.

67. The Observer from WHO observed that there was very little mention of the health of the African woman. She stressed how vital good health is to the African woman who represents up to 60% of the work force, produces 80% of the food consumption and who helps in improving the debt crisis. She informed the group that WHO had 3 priority programmes for accelerating the development of health in the African Region and one of them is Maternal-Child Health/Family Planning in which the improvement of women's health carries a large portion. She further stated that WHO would welcome collaboration with any agency or groups that is interested.

68. The Secretariat admitted that there had not been much activities directed towards women's and children's health but promised to look into that in future. The President of ARCC appealed to ECA/ATRCW to try and participate in activities related to mother and child health care.

69. One delegate noted that there was an in balance in the representation of member States of ARCC and questions were asked concerning the procedure of nominating members. Explanation for this apparent situation was given and it was suggested that the issue of representation of member States in each of the MULPOC be considered later since it concerned institutional structures which existed before the establishment of ARCC.

70. The observer from UNICEF used this discussion period to inform the delegates of some of UNICEF's activities in child survival and development, specially in the area of improving the health of mothers and children. Other areas mentioned household food security, water and sanitation, basic education, all with special relevance for women.

71. In concluding the discussion the delegates expressed the need for total collaboration in their effort to integrate women in national development. This they said calls for bridge building between the grassroots and the intellectuals.

Progress report on the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development (18 - 22 September 1989) (Agenda Item 7)

72. In introducing agenda item 7, the ECA Secretariat referred to the historical importance of the regional conference which has its origin from the stipulations made at the 1979 Rabat Conference. The stipulation was that there must be a tri-annual conference but that ECA had not adhered to this time frame because of financial constraints.

73. This proposed Fourth Regional Conference was a specific request made through a resolution that called for the convening of a conference to appraise, review and assess the implementation of the Arusha Strategies not later than 1990 and before the year 2000.

74. The efforts to be reviewed arose out of Resolution 535 entitled "Implementation of the Arusha Strategies for African Women", which gave the legal basis for the implementation of the strategies adopted at the Arusha Conference of 1984.

75. The meeting was informed that the Nigeria Government had in principle accepted to host the conference but the modalities are still to be worked out.

76. The draft provisional agenda and programme of work of the Regional Conference were tabled to the ARCC meeting for changes, improvement and adoption.

Discussion

77. In ensuring a successful conference, participants made proposals as follows: Participation of the conference: That the level and spread of participation must be carefully worked out; that in considering the level of participation, protocol arrangements must be planned and it was suggested that organisers must plan the protocol arrangement in consultation with the host country.

78. Planning of the conference. It was suggested that a planning committee be coopted to assist ECA and Nigeria Government in the planning of the conference logistics and arrangements.

79. Drawing up of a detailed programme for the 10th Anniversary. A committee comprising OAU, Nigerian Embassy, Mauritania, Delegates, and ECA was appointed to work out a detailed programme for the celebration and whose report was to be presented during the adoption of the ARCC Report.

80. OAU/ECA Collaboration. The OAU representative expressed the need for joint collaboration between the OAU and ECA in organising the conference irrespective of the prevailing problems of differences in member states associated to the ECA and OAU of which she also observed can be worked out. She further expressed the hope that the ECA keeps an open mind in making this possible.

81. In subsequent discussions, participants made the following inputs as improvement on the proposed provisional agenda and work programme: consideration be made for possible inclusion of an agenda item to address the problems of women who are victims of drought. It was lengthly observed that this issue of drought victims can be addressed simultaneously under the proposed provisional agenda item 8 as they all fall under the category of displaced women as spelt out in the strategies set forth in the Arusha Strategies. Thus the agenda item can be changed to read "The situation of displaced women and children". That agenda item 9 should take a broader look of resource flow to women and not just women's programmes and hereby suggested that agenda item 9 which is a combination of 9 and 10 in the proposed provisional agenda should now read "flow of resources to women in the context of the African Food and Debt Crisis".

82. Further observations were made as to how to ensure the achievement of expected outcome (a) of the conference - i.e. "A thorough review and assessment on the degree of implementation of the Arusha Strategies by governments, UN-Bodies, NGOs, etc". With regard to governments, participants proposed that the country reports be well structured and contain comparable and pertinent data. To this end, it was proposed that a guide be prepared which will make it possible to draw up a file. As far as the United Nations bodies were concerned, the ILO observer expressed the wish for ECA to closely associate these bodies concerned with the preparation of the evaluation document. In order to arrive at a better perspective of the implementation of the strategies, it was also suggested that the assessment by UN-bodies be done by taking a telescopic view of both the Arusha and Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies since the Nairobi incorporates the Arusha Strategies.

83. The general conclusion was that the proposed programme was adequate and excellent what is needed now is proper planning, timely, necessary and appropriate contacts with all parties concerned so as to ensure a smooth and successful conference.

Any Other Business (Agenda Item 8)

84. The resource person for the 10th Anniversary Celebration of ARCC, Ms. Aissata Kane was called upon to discuss the anniversary celebration proceedings for ARCC during the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women In Development. She described the various events that would take place on the celebration day such as a photo exhibition and the performance of a dance troupe. A representative of the ECA Secretariat suggested that more workshops/meetings should be scheduled to provide an opportunity for discussion of the many problems facing African women. The meetings and workshops she said, would provide a forum for the many intellectuals/researchers attending the conference. There was a consensus that a public awareness campaign should be held prior to the conference. In response to the question of how such a campaign would be financed, it was suggested that national machineries in member States organise a public information campaign. In addition; it was suggested that they undertake fund-raising activities.

85. The Deputy Executive Secretary said that since the 10th Anniversary of ARCC was a big event as such it needed good organisation. Therefore a co-ordinating committee needed to be organised to work out the programme of ARCC's anniversary

celebration and the Fourth Regional Conference in general. It was agreed that the committee would be comprised of ECA, OAU, and the appointed resource person, Ms. Aissata Kane, in close collaboration with the Nigerian Embassy. Finally, ATRCW distributed its 1990-91 work programme to all conference participants.

Adoption of the report (Agenda Item 9)

86. After making the necessary amendments on 25 March 1989, the tenth meeting of ARCC adopted its report including the draft resolution and recommendations for consideration by the Tenth Meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole (TEPCOW) which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 27 March to 4 April 1989.

RECOMMENDATIONS

A. At the national level

1. Women's visibility in national development plans should be a priority. National development strategies should therefore be developed taking into consideration allocation of resources to basic production sectors. Policy of action aimed at involving women in national planning exercises should be formulated.

2. Appropriate structural arrangements be institutionalised through which women's programmes can be integrated into national development.

3. In relation to structural adjustment programmes:

   i) Measures to reduce the negative effects of adjustment on women, and policies which can compensate its adverse impact are needed. For instance, in employment, jobs (e.g. in the services) where women predominate should be protected and maintained);

   ii) considering that there are very few women at the decision and policy-making level, governments should make every effort to ensure the participation of national machineries in the early stages of policy formulation and implementation of projects.

4. Employment in the informal sector continues to play a key role and a hope for survival for a greater majority of women. In view of this, working environment and conditions for women in the informal sector should be improved with attention given to reconstruction of physical facilities (e.g. shelter, water, sanitation, etc), access to productive facilities such as credit, marketing and training.

5. Regarding data/information on women in development, national central statistical offices with the assistance of national machineries and other organisations involved in women and development should compile, process and analyse data so as to assess women's role and contribution to national development.

6. In the area of education and training:

   i) access to science and technology-based training programmes should be provided to girls/women in order to enhance their masterly of scientific and technological knowledge and skills necessary of participation in various sectors of development;

   ii) national training institutions shouod develop strategies/mechanisms which would encourage more girls/women to enter into scientific and technological fields.

B. At the subregional/regional levels

7. The subregional women's structures are vital focal points for co-ordinating, monitoring and implementtation of subregional programmes for women. In order to ensure continuity of the subregional and regional structures, member States should explore ways and means of funding women's co-ordinators as well as resources for carrying out women's programmes in the respective MULPOCs.

8. International and inter-governmental organisations should give support to women's programmes and projects that are initiated and part of the MULPOCs overall programmes.

9. Subregional institutions and or structures such as the Preferential Trade Areas (PTA) Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference (SADEC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes and others should incorporate in their programmes and or give attention to issues which would benefit women in particular.

C. At the international level

10. International organisations are called upon to:

i) provide financial support for the establishment of a data bank for women in development in Africa;

ii) provide financial support for women's programmes in the subregions;

iii) provide both financial and technical support for women's participation in and production of materials for the Regional Conference.

RESOLUTION

Strengthening the Capabilities of Subregional and Regional Structures for the Integration of Women in Development

ARCC members: Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Mauritania, Morocco, Zaire, and Tunisia.

The Conference of Ministers

Considering Conference of Ministers resolution 626 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 which urged countries to meet their budgetary contributions to international institutions responsible for financing programmes for the integration of women in development in the MULPOCs,

Referring further the UNDP/ECA/ARCC evaluation mission of August 1987 related to the programme of integration of women in the development process in the African countries,

Having considered the current situation of the women's progtamme at the MULPOC level and the difficulties encountered by the existing subregional committees on the integration of women in development in carrying out their functions as assigned to them,

Desirous of strengthening these existing subregional and regional structures in order to ensure their viability and continued efforts to coordinate and implement activities for the advancement of women and to accelerate their integration in development,

Taking account of the considerable importance of the Fourth Regional Conference on the integration of women in development to be held in Abuja in September 1989,

Noting with satisfaction the collaboration between the ECA and OAU Secretariats in the organisation of the Fourth Regional Conference for the Integration of Women in Development,

1. Requests member States to take necessary steps to extend the mandates of the bureau of the subregional committees and of the Bureau of the African Regional Co-ordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development by maintaining them for another two years;

2. Requests further the Executive Secretary of ECA to make every effort in order to find necessary resources and to make contacts with all international organisations interested in financing women's programme of the MULPOCs;

3. Invites member States to provide voluntary contributions to the women's programme at the MULPOCs to enable the achievement of objectives set for Integration of Women in Development;

4. Thanks sincerely, the Egyptian Government for taking a lead in support of the women's programme by providing a coordinator to the North Africa MULPOC;

5. Kindly urges member States to ensure the participation of high-level delegations to the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development.

6. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to collaborate with the Secretary-General of OAU to take necessary steps to mobilize adequate resources for the success of the Fourth Regional Conference;

7. Requests the Secretariat of the ECA to make necessary arrangements for the successful celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Africa Regional Co-ordinating committee (ARCC) during the Fourth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women in Development and to sensitize all member States to give publicity to the event through mass media.